



Maryland Department of Disabilities - Press Release

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Maryland Youth Leadership Forum Scheduled July 18-21, 2006 at Bowie State University

BALTIMORE, MD (November 17, 2005) -- Applications for the 2006 Maryland Youth Leadership Forum are now available. High school students entering their junior and senior years can apply for the Youth Leadership Forum, which provides an opportunity unlike any other in Maryland for young people with disabilities to experience an intensive forum emphasizing leadership, independence and personal and career goal setting.

Students are selected to attend the Forum based on: the applicant's accomplishments and leadership potential (academic achievement, community service and participation in school and community activities); disability diversity; ethnic and racial diversity; and geographic representation.

The 2006 forum will be held July 18 through 21 at Bowie State University, where participants will:

- develop personal leadership plans;
- interact with successful role models;
- attend a mentors' luncheon and meeting with Maryland government officials;
- visit an exhibit of assistive technology;
- participate in a legislative activity;
- learn about leadership principles, the history of the disability rights movement and resources that can enable them to achieve their goals.

Sponsors of the Youth Leadership Forum include: the Maryland State Department of Education's Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services and Division of Rehabilitation Services; the Maryland Department of Disabilities; the Maryland Department of Human Resources; the Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council; and Independence Now, Inc.

Applications for the Summer 2006 Maryland Youth Leadership Forum are available online at www.md-ylf.org or by calling the above phone numbers. The deadline for applications is January 15, 2006.

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